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KINGSTON ONTARIO CANADA

A P R O P E R
R E P L Y
To a late infamous and scurrilous
L I B E L,
I N T I T L E D,

*A CONGRATULATORY LETTER to
a certain Right Honourable
Person upon his late Disap-
pointment.*

Men of all Sorts take a Pride to gird at me.
FALSTAFF.



L O N D O N:

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A P R O P E R
R E P L Y

To a late
Infamous LIBEL, &c.

My L----

YO U R L---p's Letter is far from giving me an Opinion *different* in the least from what I had of you before; it abounds with that *Ill-nature* and that *abusive Wit* for which you have been always famous, the *World* gave it to *you* as soon as they *read* it, and did Justice to you, by believing most firmly

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what you assert in the first Paragraph, that you have as much *real Friendship* for the *Person* to whom it is *addressed*, as you *can have* for *any Body*.

There was also no Sort of Doubt entertained as to your being very well pleased at the R. H. Person's *Disappointment*, and so no doubt were *all of your Party*. Men of quick Wit and warm Passions are apt to measure other Peoples *Tempers* by their *own*, and to fancy that *Disappointments* must be absolutely *intolerable*, because they are *not* able to *bear* them. But from the known *Calmness* and *Moderation* of the noble Person's Disposition, to whom you address your *scurrilous Letter*, the thinking

thinking Part of Mankind were satisfied that nothing could give him *Concern* or *Disquiet* in relation to that *Refusal*, but the Part he took in the *Disappointment* of his *Country* and his *Countrymen*.

He knew very well what *malignious People* would say when he was first mentioned for that *Post*, but he knew likewise what they had *already said*; and as there was no great fear, that in all the Treasury of *Billingsgate*, they should find *fouler Language* than they had employed *before*, he gave himself *little Concern*, as in truth he had but very *little Reason*, for what they *might say* on this *Occasion*.

In respect to his *Declarations*, which perhaps it may be true, were both *frequent* and *publick*, that he would *never accept of any Place*, these ought always to be understood with a *saving* of the *Duty* he owed to his *Country*. In the primitive Times eminent Churchmen were *far* from *desiring* Bishopricks, and even when they were offered them, *refused them* sincerely ; yet for the Sake of the *Church* they *accepted* that very Dignity which they *sought not* for their *own*. He thought therefore, and who should fay that he *thought amiss* ; he was bound as a *good Patriot* to do as much for the *State*, as the most *pious Priest* would do for the *Church*.

Church. He thought, in short, that the *People* had a Right to avail themselves of *his Service*.

He knew, as who could know it *better*, the Integrity, Uprightness, and Sincerity of his own Heart ; he knew, what indeed all the World knows, that he possessed, in the most eminent Degree, that *Virtue* which Parties, who agree in nothing else, *admit* to be the *properest Qualification* for a *Person* in that high *Station*, I mean *Frugality*, which never was denied him by his Enemies ; and as he meant to take the *same Care* of the *Publick*, as he does of his *private* Revenues, he thought that if he had not expressed a Willingness to *accept* of this *Post*, he had acted

acted like a *Traytor* to his *King*,
and an *Enemy* to his *Country*.

He was fully sensible of the Difficulties and Dangers, which must have attended his *Discharge* of that *weighty Employment*. He knew how strong the *Resentment* run of *both Parties*, but he knew at the same Time his *own Conduct* to be so *right*, that he apprehended no *ill Consequences* from the *Anger* of either : He had joined with the *Tories* when he *found* *them* an *Opposition* acting upon *Whig Principles*, he *left* them when they became a *Faction* by acting upon *their own* : He knew the *Suspicions* of the *Whigs*, but the Rectitude of his *own Mind*, would never suffer him to *suspect*,
that

that their *Ingratitude* would rise so high as to *sacrifice* the Man who had *saved them* : He sought a Place with a View only to *serve* the *Nation*, for which, with a steady Resolution, he will be always ready to *hazard* his *Honours* and his *Fortune*.

When these Considerations are well weighed, he has Reason to think that his *Friends* will heartily *congratulate* him at present on his *happy Escape* from so much Trouble and Danger ; and he makes no question, but *in Time* even his *Enemies* will *condole* his *Country*, upon *what* makes your L---p so merry, this *great Disappointment*.

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It was a Truth known not to *him* only, but to *you* and to all the World, that *Conferences* in a certain *Closet*, with whatever *Honour* they were *attended*, had like-wise some *uneasy Circumstances*. He imagines therefore that a Person so *easy* in his *private Station*, could not well be suspected of desiring to enter on a *publick Character*, embarrassed with so *many* and so *great Difficulties*, from any other Motive than that of *publick Spirit*. As this inclined him to risque whatever *Warmth* might be expressed by the *great Person* who presides there, so he was willing to hope that the known *Mildness* of his *own Temper* would have opened to him some Opportunities

tunities of removing those *Prejudices* which might be entertained of him from *Misrepresentations*, and enable him to vindicate *any Part* of his *Conduct*, which might have afforded a Handle to such *malicious Persons*, as the *Writer* of this *Letter*, to place him in a Light in which he ought not to *stand*. Full of these Hopes he flattered himself, that though at his *Entrance* on this *Post*, he might not be a *personal Favourite*, yet in *Process of Time*, and by a *Series of Services*, he might have attained to a more *noble Character* than that of being an *useful M--r.*

I readily believe your L---ship, when you say you should be *overjoy'd* to escape *Trouble*. All who

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know what a Mixture of *Vivacity* and *Indolence* there is in your *Temper*, will readily think it *true*, and upon this I venture to *congratulate you*, since I think there is no great *Likelihood* of your being *forced* into *Business*; and I dare assure you, that if it be in the Person's *Power* who you have *libelled* to *prevent it*, no such *Hardship* shall be put upon *you*; but you shall have always *Leisure* and *Matter* enough to *employ* your *Wit* and your *Pen* in such *pretty Epistles*.

But in the Name of wonder, how came you to mention the *Libels* of *past Ages* and the *present*? Is not the former your *peculiar Kind* of *Learning*, and is

is not all your *Writing Reputation* owing to the *latter*? If the Person you *libel* was the *Patron*, you are undoubtedly the *Author* of a *Multitude of Papers* in the *Craftsman*. At least this was the *Opinion of the World*, who, whenever they saw a *Paper* full of *Sneer*, and *void of Argument*, immediately gave it to *you*. There is therefore no doubt that, by altering a *few* of those *Papers* in a *very few Places*, you might be able to suit them, so as to make them serve *afresh* for any *Ministry*; and in that, I think, a great Excellency lies, since in all human Probability, you will be upon *bad Terms* with *all*. But as for *his part* whom you *abused*, he is Proof against *every Libel*, even

against yours. Permit me however to observe *one* Thing to you, which is this, that if Men are to be *libelled* upon *Disappointments* of this Sort, they will be fonder of *Places* than ever, because if they are to be *abused* whether *in* or *out*, the former is undoubtedly the *better Situation* of the *two*.

As to *C----t*, his *Sincerity* may be of the *same Value* with your *Good-nature*, and his *Letter* and *yours* ought perhaps to be read the *same Way*. But who told you that he was *trusted*? Tho' there might be a *Disappointment* in the *Thing*, yet the *Person* you *aim* at, might not be *disappointed* in *him*; for as you must know that there are some *Sort* of *People* in
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the World, from whom one is never to expect a *good Word*, so there are *others* from whom *good Words* are *all* that is to be *expected*. Of which two Sorts of People *your L---p* and the *noble L----* you have mentioned, are *most illustrious Instances*.

We are now to enter into the right honourable Person's *private Life*; in respect to which, give me leave to observe, that you are the most *incompetent Judge* in the *World*, because *you* and *he* are of the most *different Tempers*; one *warm, active, and impatient*, the other *cool, indolent, but withal remarkably steady*; *you* a *Squanderer*, *he* an *Oeconomist*; *you* always in the *Vapours*, from your

your own *Mismanagement* in *private Life*, and thence continually out of *Humour* in your *publick Character*; he, on the contrary, so *happy* from his *own right Management* of his *private Fortune*, that he *is*, and *must be* always concerned in *Interest* to prevent *publick Confusion*.

It is no wonder that a *Person* thus utterly unqualified to *judge* of the *other Person's Actions*, and at the same Time burning with an *impatient Desire* of *blackening* every little *Circumstance* of his *Conduct*, should write as *you do*. What was there in his *Diversions* at *Richmond*, that could provoke any other *Man's Satyr*? He diverted himself there in a *frugal Way*,

Way, because he hates *expensive Diversions* ; you, on the contrary, have diverted yourself *so long*, at so monstrous an *Expence*, that having *jaded* your *Body*, *worn out* your *Fortune*, and set your *Spirits* into a *high Fret*, the only *Diversions* you can now *take*, is in *writing* such *malicious Letters* as these. As to his *Conversations* with Mr. *O----d*, what *Harm* was there in them ? You will inquire immediately, What *Good* was there in them ? Why, really, a great deal : They turned, generally speaking, on *Points of Law*, the *Nature of Conveyances*, the *Value of Securities*, the *Means of settling Estates*, so as to prevent there being ever *torn* from a *Family*, and the *Means of breaking* such *Settlements*

Settlements when made by other *People*. This afforded the *one* an Opportunity of *shewing* his great *Knowledge*, and gave the *other* occasion to turn his *Discourse* on such *Topicks* as derived to him all the *Benefits* of that *prodigious Knowledge*, without being a *Penny* out of *Pocket* for his *Opinion*. But, seriously, the *Entertainments* at *Richmond* were truly worthy of a *Patriot*; there you might have seen the *richest Man* in *England*, living, in all *Respects*, like a *private Country Gentleman*, the ablest of our *political Orators* amusing himself with *merry Jokes* in a familiar *Conversation*, and the *Person* supposed to be struggling for the *P----M----ship*, sitting a quiet *Spectator*.

Spectator of a *Cricket-Match* on the *Green*. What *Moderation*, what *Modesty*, what a *Mixture* of *Ambition* and *Indolence* was there !

You are certainly much *exhausted*, when you threw into your *Libel* his spending now and then a *Summer* at a *Friend's House*, with that *pitiful Reflection* of setting up again his *old Trade* with his *Poulterer*. A Man that loves *shooting*, must naturally like *living* sometimes *here*, sometimes *there*; and the very Nature of his *Exercise*, shews sufficiently that he could create *no great Expence* wherever he *lived*. Lord *L---l* might indeed find *fault* with *this*, because for a *Summer*

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or two he was at the *Charge* of *Powder* and *Shot*, and might have suggested a *Draught* upon the *Poulterer* to be a proper *Satisfaction*; but what have you to do with that? or with any other of his *innocent Recreations*? You have a *Right* to chuse your own *Pleasures*, and have *exercised* that *Right* pretty freely; but you have none to dictate to *him*. And here again let me remark that *Opposition* in your *Characters*, which is the *true Source* of all your *Spleen*, I believe it would puzzle a *Bank Accomptant* to determine whether you *lavish*, or he *saves*, *most* in a *Summer*.

Grants

Grants from the Crown, and Lottery Tickets, are both as much out of your Way as they are in his; and this it was that put those Objections in your Head; but it is one thing to have a Power of commanding such Favours when they are not wanted, and another to want them, and not have any Title to command them; and here, as in most other Cases, though the Wit is on your Side, the Wisdom lies on his.

You are in the *right* to applaud the *social Pleasures* of a *private Life*, and the *Joy's* resulting from the *prudent Management* of a *Family*, because you *taste all this at Home*. But

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when you condescended to mention a *serene* C----s, was not a certain *stupid* C----s in your *Head*? And then again, this *immense Fortune* of another Man's, seems to *embarrass* you as much as your *own*. If a Lady is so *kind* as to bequeath a Gentleman a *considerable Estate* out of pure Gratitude for the *Services* done her, would you have him *refuse it*? If a *Demand*, that was made without either *Proof* or *Probability*, was not *complied* with, do you call it an *Injury*? Or the *Estate* which you say was *given back*, can you *deny* that it has fallen into *worse Hands* since? Alas! alas! what an *Age* do we live in, when a *Man of Wit*, not content with slighting *com-*

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mon Sense and Oeconomy in his own Way of *living*, thinks he has has just Grounds to be angry with *Prudence* and *right Management* in another Man's. Where is the *Justice*, where the *Wisdom*, where the *Honour* of such kind of Reflections? Consider this, and be rather ashamed for *yourself* than *him*.

As to an *independent Station*, your *Letter* is the strongest Proof that the Man you are so *angry* with enjoys it. This, whatever your *pregnant Parts* may enable you to *suggest*, is a most *comfortable Thing*: As he *will*, so it is certain he *may do* what he *pleases*. If he *agrees* with a *Court*, he will always be *considered by them*;

them ; if he *disagrees* with a *Court*, his *Loss* will be always *regretted*. Is such a *State* *contemptible* ? Is it like to be *unenvied* ? Will it be *envied* only by the *meanest of Men* ? What then must be *said* or *thought* of the *Man* whose *Envy* put him upon writing *such a Letter* ?

Your *Sneer* as to not *attending* great *Employments*, is very *arch* ; but, with your good leave, *Non-Attendance* is a strong Proof that a *Man* is not over-heated by *Ambition*, or the *Love of Power* : And if the *publick Business* does not suffer by such a *Neglect*, it does not seem to merit the *Aspersions* you have thrown in your *Letter*. A *Man* who does not
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think the *Court* always in the *Right*, or the *Opposition* always in the *Wrong*, will with *disinterested People* as soon pass for a *Patriot*, as one who has a *Talent* of *ridiculing* other Folks in *his Speeches*, as he has of *rendering* himself *ridiculous* by his *Actions*.

As to the Number of *his Friends*, which you would insinuate to be but *few*, I dare say he may *poll* them against *yours*, and be a *Gainer* upon *any Occasion*. But if there be *any Truth* in what is suggested in another *Part* of your *Letter*, the *Sneer* in this *Part* must be *absolutely groundless* : For if *him* you would *label* is such a *Man* as you elsewhere describe him, *fond of Country* *try*

try Diversions, addicted to the frugal Management of a very great Estate, and somewhat careless of the highest Honours that a Subject can possess, it is very likely that, if ever he pretended to such a Post, it was out of mere Regard for his Friends ; your very Letter shews that he could have no other Motive. Your Raillery therefore on this Subject is all thrown away, and your only Excuse must be, that as a great Wit you may be allowed to have a short Memory, and no great Strength of Judgment.

You are pleased to give him a little good Advice as to what he ought to say to his Friends upon this Occasion ; but in truth I think
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that might have *been spared*, since I dare say all who know *you both* will *allow*, that on any *serious Subject* (as you admit this to be) he has as *much to say* for himself as *you have* with *all your Parts*. His *Friends* and *himself* will behave in *Consequence* of this *Affair* like *Men of Steadiness* and *Weight*; there will, I dare say, appear, no *Starts of Passion*, no *hasty revolting* from what they before *maintained*, no *inconsistent Reproaches*, on account of what at the *Bottom* is perhaps *really considered* as a *Favour* rather than an *Injury*.

The next *Paragraph* of your *Letter* belongs to *another Man* with whom you were many Years
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in *close Connexion*, and to his *Re-sentments* I leave it. You treat him as a Man *lost* in *Capacity*, as well as *Sincerity*, and yet you give him the *greatest Weight*, where, for the *Sake* of your *Country*, you ought to wish he *had none at all*: You sport with *that Name* which ought to be mentioned with *Awe* by every *good Subject*, and who, independant of every other *Consideration*, might claim a *peculiar Share* of *Deference* from one he once honoured, with his *private Friendship*: But you *run at all*, and what *Wonder*? Your *Spleen* has *run away* with *you*, and conscious you are like *never to be great*, the sole Resource of your *Wit* is *lessening* other Men.

I am now come to the *End* of a very tedious Task, imposed by a very *trifling Performance*. You had a mind to give the *World* an *Instance* of your *boasted Abilities* in *Writing*, and therefore you will naturally pardon a *Passion* of the *like Kind* in me, perhaps to little Purpose in *both*. I wonder you should chuse to talk of *Surnames*, since I am much at a *Loss* to *guess* what of that Kind your own *Wit* and *Vanity* put together, could find *out* for *yourself*. Where are your *Triumphs* in *State*, or in *War*? when were you, when are you like to be *victorius*? who was ever *overcome* by you? But a Man of your *Learning* must know, that the

Romans

Romans sometimes borrowed *Sirnames*, or rather *Nicknames*, from their Defects. *Scipio*, if I am rightly informed, signifies no more than *a Staff*, and *Cicero* a *Chick Pea*: In this Sense you might, from the most notorious of your *great Abilities*, be styled *SCURRA*, which I leave you to *translate*, with this additional Memorandum, That whatever in your *great Goodness* you are pleased to think of *another Person*, the World in general esteem you to be at once *THE WITTIEST AND THE WEAKEST OF MEN*, and much good may do you with *such a Character*.

I am,

My L---

Your obliged humble Servant.

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